

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9988

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UK

SUBJECT: ROYAL VISIT TO US IN 1976

REF: CROWLEY-JAMES TELECON, APRIL 8

1. FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTED APRIL 4 (AND GUARDIAN APRIL 7) THAT QUEEN ELIZABETH WILL VISIT US IN SUMMER OF 1976 DURING CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS. ACCORDING TO REPORT, WHITE HOUSE HAS LET IT BE KNOWN QUEEN WILL BE WELCOME DURING SUMMER AND PALACE HAS ACCEPTED INVITATION IN PRINCIPLE. ALTHOUGH NO DEFINITE DATE HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED, US VISIT WILL BE TIMED JUST BEFORE OR AFTER JULY 16 WHEN QUEEN OPENS SUMMER OLYMPICS IN MONTREAL, STATES FT.

2. COMMENT: FCO HAS TOLD EMBASSY THAT HMG, AWARE OF TIMING DIFFICULTIES RELATED TO JULY 4 COMMEMORATION AND POLITICAL CONVENTIONS IN MID-JULY AND EARLY AUGUST, WILL HOLD TO LINE THAT INVITATION ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE WITH DATE FOR VISIT TO BE ESTABLISHED LATER. SPECIFICALLY FCO WILL REPLY TO PRESS INQUIRIES THAT QUEEN KNOWS SHE IS WELCOME IN US IN JULY 1976 BUT NO DATES HAVE BEEN SET FOR A POSSIBLE VISIT. BALL IS CLEARLY IN BUCKINGHAM PALACE, ACCORDING FCO, AND VARIOUS DATES ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION.

RICHARDSON

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